


[hszc.org](http://hszc.org)

2013 Aug 13 - Aug 27



Please help support our temple, Dharma study & our programs.



## August Sangha e-Newsletter

Source:  
Red Pine

### The Diamond Sutra - The perfection of Wisdom

Tr. by

"Tell me Subhuti. Do those who find the river think, 'I have found the river'?"

Subhuti replied, "No indeed, Bhagavan. Those who find the river do not think, 'I have found the river'. And why not? Bhagavan, they do not find any such dharma. Thus are they said to 'find the river'. They do not find a sight, nor a sound, a smell, a taste, a touch, or a dharma. Thus are they said to 'find a river.' Bhagavan, if those who found the river should think 'I have attained the goal of finding the river', they would be attached to a self, they would be attached to a being, a life, a soul."



Hartford Street Zen Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Donations are tax-deductible

### Public Practice Schedule:

#### Monday

6:00 pm Zazen (seated meditation)  
6:40 pm Chanting

#### Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen  
6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)  
6:50 am Zazen  
7:20 am Chanting

## Upcoming Events:

● **Sewing Abbot's Robe with Tim Wicks** - for the Mountain Seat Ceremony, Oct 13th!: Saturdays @11:30am

● **Dharma Talks** - Rev. Myo Lahey - Saturdays: Aug 17,24,31... @10:15am.

● **Guest Speakers Saturdays 10:15am - August 10 - Rev Shokan Jordan Thorn; September 14 - Ayya Santacitta of Aloka Vihara; October 5 - Zachary Smith, Anshi Daigi; November 2 - Elaine Donlin Sensei of Jodo Shinshu; December 14 - Beata Chapman**

● **Full Moon Ceremony** - Saturday, July 24: the Full Sturgeon, Green Corn or Grain Moon

● **Sangha Council** - Saturday, August 17th at 12:30pm.

● **Founder's Memorial** - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

● **Study Hour** The Book of Serenity, we have books to share, we read together, feel free to drop in - Thursdays @7:30pm

● **Next Board of Directors' Meeting** - Second Wednesdays of the month: August 14 @7:30pm (you're welcome to attend/observe)

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7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Chanting

Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

### Saturday

6:30 am Zazen

7:10 am Chanting

7:25 am Soji

8:30 am Drop-in instruction

9:25 am Zazen

10:15 am Dharma Talk

11:00 am Refreshments/Social

### HIV Meditation Sitting Group

weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!  
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen

11:00 am garden socializing

### Meditation in Recovery

(Men & Women)

weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction



Flash Relic Treasures Bamboo Ceremony HSZC garden: Piaka, Rev. Myo, Bro Chris & Will, August 5, 2013

●**For August:** We had a flash ceremony on August 5th. While Jen dug and excavated the bamboo roots small pieces of the past began to present themselves. Little primarily glass, metal or ceramic pieces of once larger objects in their prior incarnation came to light. Many were possibly buried as junk tossed into the back of a former family's house or small intentionally buried reminders of the lives that came to Maitri Hospice and passed beyond our perceivable world. As the roots were extracted and sifted and the dirt put back from what use to be bamboo grove space, now next to now bamboo island; Jen had realized it was important to leave behind some small items from our lives for the next beings to discover and ponder. The ceremony was a nice concise 15 minute ceremony attended by a small group who was around, Manjushri, offerings of candles, flowers and incense as attendees reflected on the lives touched by the items found in the grove and our lives now going back into the earth in the to be quiet contemplative memorial corner.

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

## **Women's Meditation in Recovery**

**(Women only)**

monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction First Thursdays

7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

**Hartford Street Zen Center** is a Castro neighborhood temple & residential practice center in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi established to support & engage the LGBTQI (Queer) Community and our allies

●**From our Resident Practitioners:** We are **still** seeking a dedicated, fellow resident practice student or Priest. [Visit here](#) to see more detail & PLEASE spread the word!

●**Words from our Practice Leader:** Reverend Myo Lahey -Valley Stream Dharma Talk  
July 22, 2013

"One important way of turning towards each other is when our inspiration is to do just the opposite. To take a special effort to come to someone and meet them...This gesture of openness and trust does something quite profound to the whole world, not just us. And it can be very scary...Even though there is sometimes conflict in our Sangha and things are sometimes painful or difficult, even so we take that scary step, bring our zazen with us, whole body-mind, and turn towards the trouble rather than away. It really does transform the world.



And yeah, it's scary sometimes. Of course it is scary because we think there is someone in here who is threatened by whatever the circumstances are, but of course, Buddha teaches that there is no one in there who is in danger of anything. It's not exactly our experience, so mostly we have to practice with that teaching for a while. What does Buddha mean, there's nobody in there really? Our friend Dogen says, in order to realize that teaching we need to study this person, study the self very intimately and carefully..."

"Zhaozhou says, even if you stay in the monastery for 10-20 years and you are silent for years, and you don't utter word, even so, there is expression. One of the things we like to do is express the Buddha Way by being still. In a way, that kind of expression may be best. It can be a little disheartening for people, so we try to have some Dharma talks where we actually say something so people can hear a few words. Otherwise we kind of leave them to sit in silence and stew until they maybe notice that there is, nonetheless, expression. Zhaozhou says...if our heart does not leave the monastery, then even if you leave the monastery, you are not leaving the monastery. What does he mean by that? He means that we are at home with our expression wherever we are, whatever it is. This is the fundamental teaching of zazen: the "at

## NEW! Women's Sitting group

(Women only)

Sitting followed by Dharma talk then tea and cookies. Mostly Zen.

Kicks off Tues, September 3rd:  
7pm-8:30pm





home" with our expression, who we are, and to come together with others and share those expressions. From that process, the Sangha jewel is born...even though I think Americans are tempted to try and see if they can do without the Sangha jewel since that is beyond a doubt the most troubling of the three jewels, the Sangha jewel, but if you remove any one of them, they all go away. To make this effort to share our expression with one another is pretty important because as you've probably already noticed Sangha is about something more than just our individual life-path; there is something that we create as a Sangha that is beyond the individual."

● **Hartford Street History:** Jeff Tarvin (June 5, 1959 - August 28, 2006), HSZC Newsletter March 2007

Faded and tattered  
Crumpled on the floor  
Worn too many  
Dances and weddings  
And funerals and more  
My body lies there  
As I escape through a hidden door  
No more was or when  
Just me becoming a then  
I'm flying away  
One journey's done  
One's just begun  
No reasons why  
No sad goodbyes  
Just let me go  
But let me stay and live through you  
Keep my love alive

● **From the Garden:** The plants and flowers of HSZC garden wishes to thank the flash relic decor and participants for adding some special \*Sarira jewel secrets back into our earth, it helps us feel a little dressed up with some buried treasure.

\*([Wikipedia >](#)) **Śarīra** (शरीर) is a generic term referring to "Buddhist relics", although in common usage it usually refers to pearl or crystal-like bead-shaped objects that are purportedly found among the

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cremated ashes of Buddhist spiritual masters. Sarira are held to emanate or incite 'blessings' and 'grace' (Sanskrit: adhishtana) within the mindstream and experience of those connected to them. Sarira are also believed to ward off evil in the Himalayan Buddhist tradition.

●**Ascending the Mountain:** The inner lining of the Okesa envelope has been shopped for and acquired. Walls to be painted and garden work to get us to the point of the big Mountain Seat Hartford Street ZC Ceremony & celebration in October!

As always:

*Our deepest gratitude to all who are helping to move this project forward.*

●**Board of Directors - Developments:** Continued planning and execution for the Mountain Seat Ceremony and the routine discussions keeping HSZC in operation and secure financial standing for many years to come.



**Ready for "the" big commitment (Marriage) & seeking a LGBTQI, Buddhist space to start your new chapter in life?** HSZC & Rev. Myo Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myo can perform weddings! Please email [hszc108@yahoo.com](mailto:hszc108@yahoo.com), call us, or the best way to discuss is to stop by during our publicly open hours.

Practice Leader, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



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